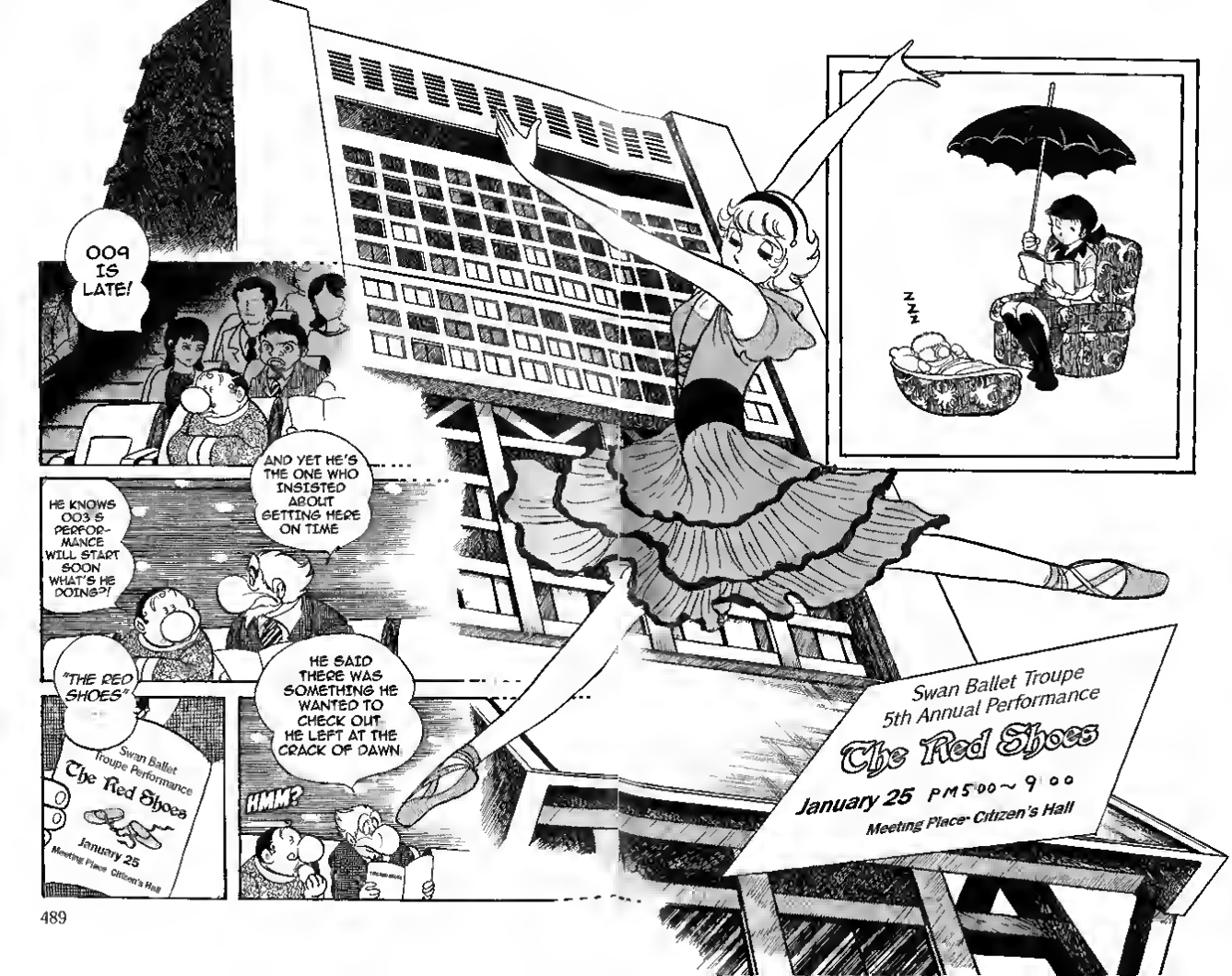
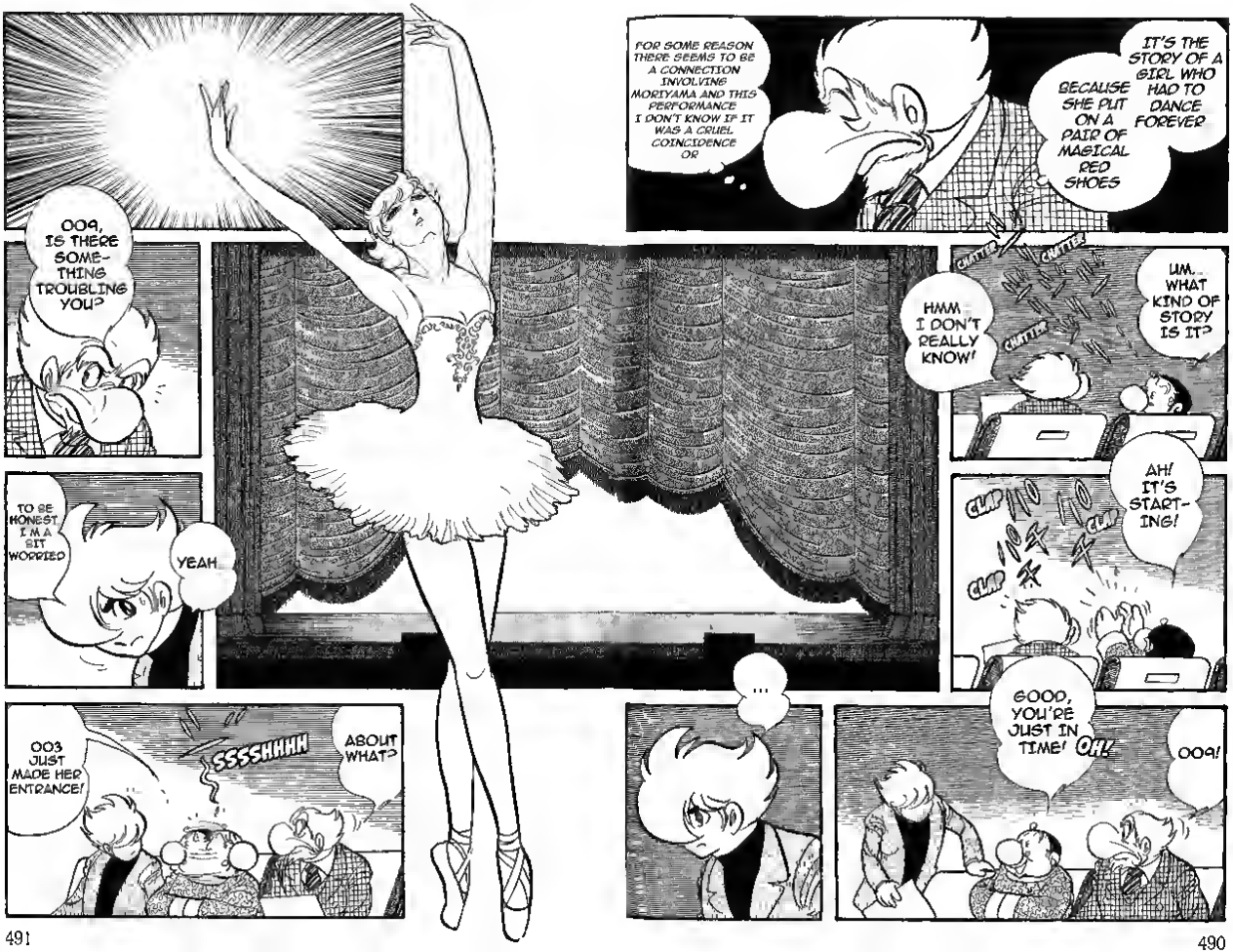
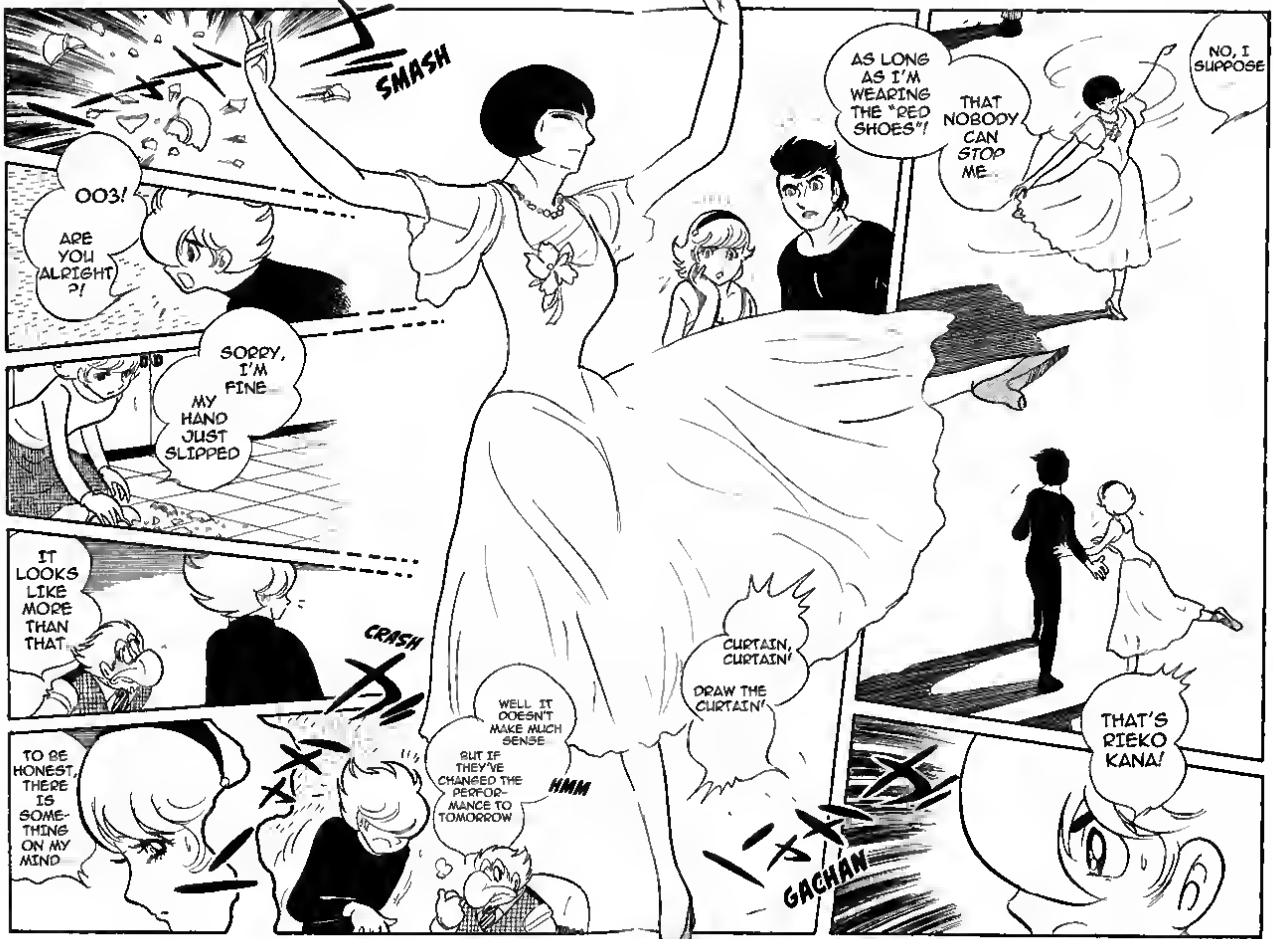
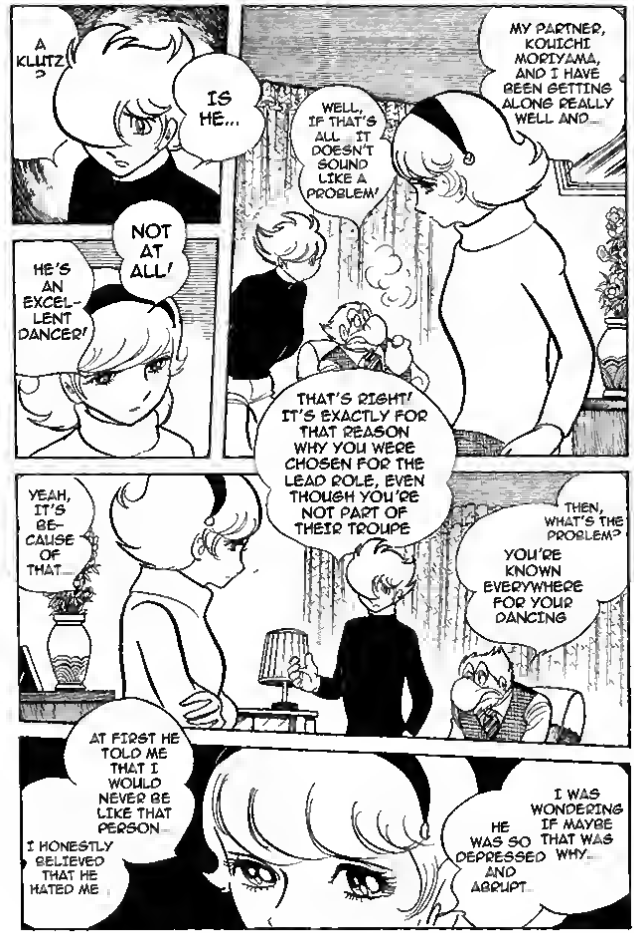
THE RED SHOES


009 IS LATE!
AND YET HE'S THE ONE WHO INSISTED ABOUT GETTING HERE ON TIME
HE KNOWS 003'S PERFORMANCE WILL START SOON WHAT'S HE DOING?!
"THE RED SHOES"
Swan Ballet Troupe Performance
The Red Shoes
January 25
Meeting Place Citizen's Hall
HE SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING HE WANTED TO CHECK OUT. HE LEFT AT THE CRACK OF DAWN.
HMM?
Z Z Z
Swan Ballet Troupe
5th Annual Performance
The Red Shoes
January 25 PM 5:00 ~ 9:00
Meeting Place- Citizen's Hall

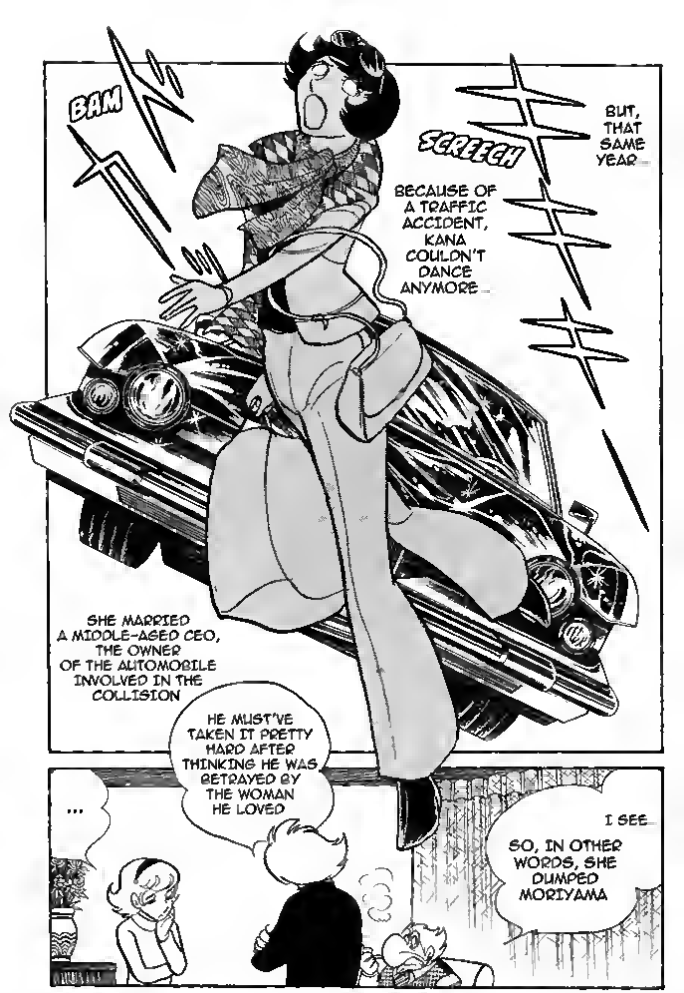

FOR SOME REASON THERE SEEMS TO BE A CONNECTION INVOLVING MORIYAMA AND THIS PERFORMANCE I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS A CRUEL COINCIDENCE OR
BECAUSE SHE PUT ON A PAIR OF MAGICAL RED SHOES
IT'S THE STORY OF A GIRL WHO HAD TO DANCE FOREVER
009, IS THERE SOME-THING TROUBLING YOU?
HMM... I DON'T REALLY KNOW!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
UM... WHAT KIND OF STORY IS IT?
TO BE HONEST I'M A BIT WORRIED
YEAH...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
AH! IT'S START-ING!
003 JUST MADE HER ENTRANCE!
SSSSHHHH
ABOUT WHAT?
...
GOOD, YOU'RE JUST IN TIME!
OH!
009!

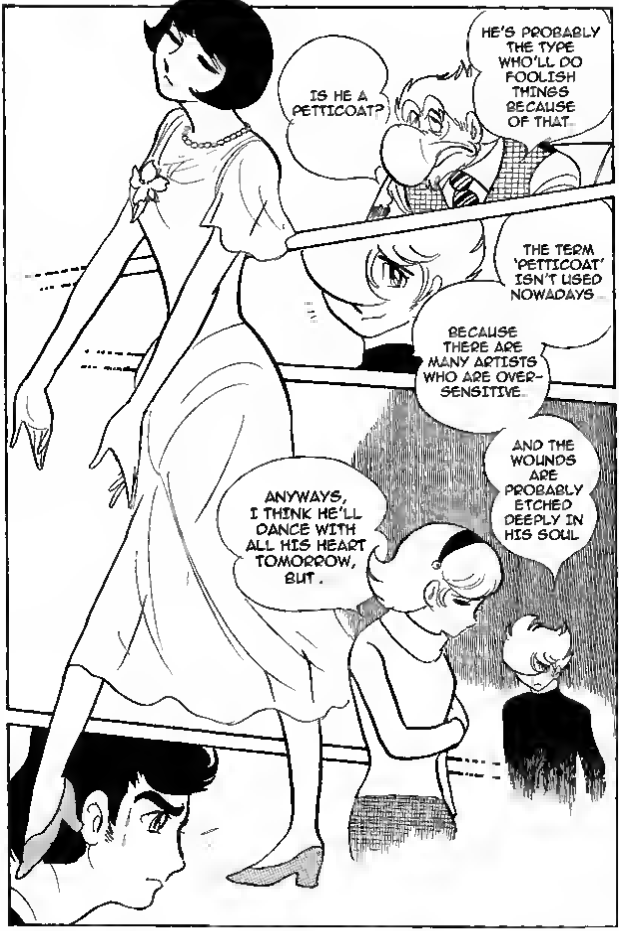
SOME-BODY! HELP ME!
OH! I CAN'T STOP!
GACHAN


SMASH
003!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
SORRY, I'M FINE
MY HAND JUST SLIPPED
IT LOOKS LIKE MORE THAN THAT
CRASH
TO BE HONEST, THERE IS SOMETHING ON MY MIND
WELL, IT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE
BUT IF THEY'VE CHANGED THE PERFORMANCE TO TOMORROW
HMM
CURTAIN, CURTAIN!
DRAW THE CURTAIN!
GACHAN
AS LONG AS I'M WEARING THE "RED SHOES"!
THAT NOBODY CAN STOP ME
NO, I SUPPOSE
THAT'S RIEKO KANA!


A KLUTZ?
IS HE...
MY PARTNER, KOUICHI MORIYAMA, AND I HAVE BEEN GETTING ALONG REALLY WELL AND...
WELL, IF THAT'S ALL IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A PROBLEM!
NOT AT ALL!
HE'S AN EXCEL-LENT DANCER!
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S EXACTLY FOR THAT REASON WHY YOU WERE CHOSEN FOR THE LEAD ROLE, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT PART OF THEIR TROUPE
YEAH, IT'S BE-CAUSE OF THAT...
THEN, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
YOU'RE KNOWN EVERYWHERE FOR YOUR DANCING
AT FIRST HE TOLD ME THAT I WOULD NEVER BE LIKE THAT PERSON...
I HONESTLY BELIEVED THAT HE HATED ME
I WAS WONDERING IF MAYBE THAT WAS WHY...
HE WAS SO DEPRESSED AND ABRUPT

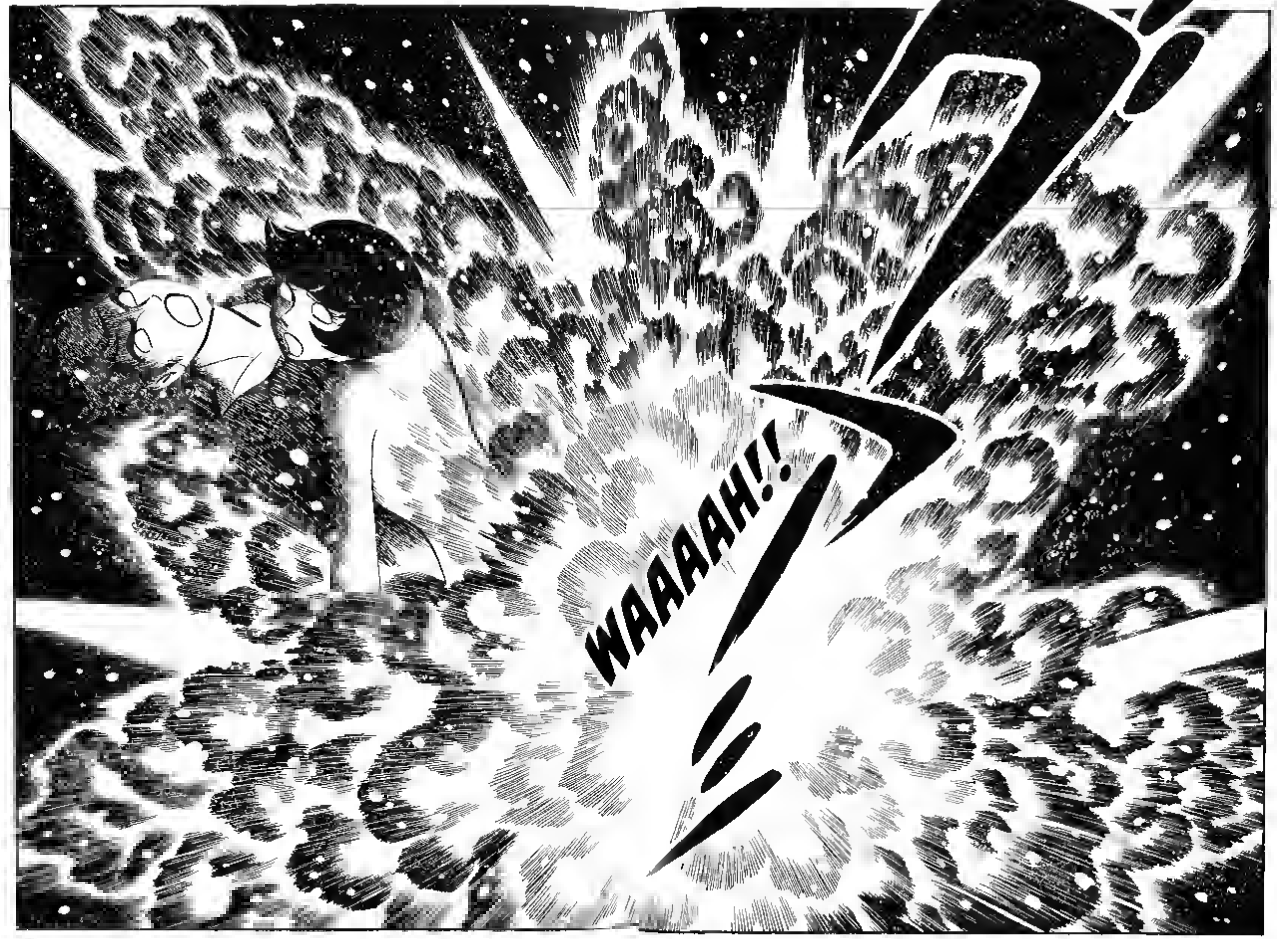
BUT I THOUGHT THAT SORT OF DEPRESSION IS NORMAL FOR GIFTED ARTISTS.
HIS DEPRESSION EXISTED FOR A DIFFERENT REASON...
WELL...
MORIYAMA HAD A LOVER...
I TRIED TO FIND OUT WHO IT WAS, BECAUSE I WAS CURIOUS.
IT WAS RIEKO KANA, THE STAR OF THE SWAN BALLET TROUPE.
ABOUT A YEAR AGO...
MORIYAMA AND KANA WERE SEEN AS THE PERFECT COUPLE...

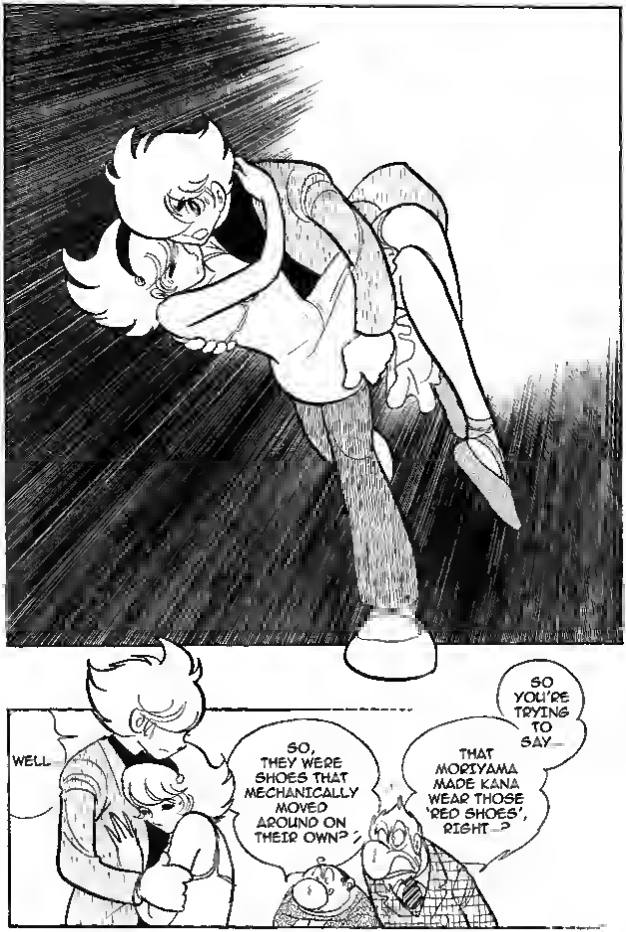

BAM
SCREECH
BUT, THAT SAME YEAR...
BECAUSE OF A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, KANA COULDN'T DANCE ANYMORE...
SHE MARRIED A MIDDLE-AGED CEO, THE OWNER OF THE AUTOMOBILE INVOLVED IN THE COLLISION
HE MUST'VE TAKEN IT PRETTY HARD AFTER THINKING HE WAS BETRAYED BY THE WOMAN HE LOVED
...
I SEE...
SO, IN OTHER WORDS, SHE DUMPED MORIYAMA


IS HE A PETTICOAT?
HE'S PROBABLY THE TYPE WHO'LL DO FOOLISH THINGS BECAUSE OF THAT.
THE TERM 'PETTICOAT' ISN'T USED NOWADAYS.
BECAUSE THERE ARE MANY ARTISTS WHO ARE OVER-SENSITIVE.
AND THE WOUNDS ARE PROBABLY ETCHED DEEPLY IN HIS SOUL.
ANYWAYS, I THINK HE'LL DANCE WITH ALL HIS HEART TOMORROW, BUT.

I CAN'T STOP...!
AS MUCH AS I WISH I COULD—
RIE—!
I'M BEING CONTROLLED BY THESE 'RED SHOES'!
009, I CAN HEAR A WHIRRING NOISE...
COMING FROM THE HEELS OF THE RED SHOES!
DAMN IT!
CLICK

I, WHO CAN NEVER DANCE AGAIN, AND YOU, WHO CAN DANCE FREELY, CAN NEVER BE TOGETHER!
YOU CAN'T!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I...
I'LL QUIT BALLET TOO!
IT'S SO CRUEL!
SO, LET'S GET MARRIED!
I CAN'T DO THAT!
I CAN'T!
ANYWAYS, THAT MAN...
HE DOESN'T KNOW IF I'LL BE ABLE TO DANCE AGAIN, BUT I'LL BE ABLE TO WALK JUST FINE JUST LIKE BEFORE...
HE SAYS THAT HE CAN FIX MY LEGS...
AND WILL PAY THE EXPENSES...


WAAAAH!!


WELL...
SO, THEY WERE SHOES THAT MECHANICALLY MOVED AROUND ON THEIR OWN?
THAT MORIYAMA MADE KANA WEAR THOSE 'RED SHOES', RIGHT...?
SO YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY—

A HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION TRIGGERED BY THE MELODY OF 'THE RED SHOES'
THE REST OF IT WAS HYPNOSIS
ABOUT THE MECHANIZED SHOES
THEY WERE JUST TIME BOMBS!
KANA WASN'T UNDER HYPNOSIS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT
I DON'T THINK SO...
NO,
WHEN SHE HEARD THE MUSIC, SHE WAS MADE TO THINK THE SHOES WERE MOVING ON THEIR OWN!
SO SHE *PRETENDED* TO BE UNDER HYPNOSIS
KANA WANTED TO DIE WITH HIM,
SHE KNEW MORIYAMA'S PLAN
THOSE TWO...

LOVED EACH OTHER DEEPLY
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO THINK
Mary Poppins